

COMMENTS OPPOSING IMPLEMENTATION OF BPL

The Lake Chelan Radio Club, representing 25 Amateur Radio operators in the Greater Chelan Valley of Washington State, strongly opposes the implementation of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) for the following reasons:

1. The high frequency (HF) radio spectrum is a valuable resource for international broadcasting, military applications, long distance maritime and aircraft communications and navigation, astronomy, and the amateur radio emergency service. Amateur Radio is a valuable resource that must be protected. We are periodically called to provide communications during the annual forest fire season.
2. Actual testing of BPL systems in Europe and Asia have proven that emissions from BPL have exceeded the conventional limits of interference and raised the ambient noise floor of receiving equipment.
3. Amateur radio operators utilize very sensitive receiving equipment that can be greatly degraded by local radio frequency noise sources, such as BPL emissions.
4. Current BPL technology provides the potential for interference to BPL customers by nearby transmitters. FCC regulations permit amateur radio operators to emit up to 1500 watts output on most of the allocated HF frequency bands. Amateur antennas located close to power lines may cause interference to BPL communications.
5. Testing of BPL systems in Europe and Asia showed that, under some conditions of ionospheric propagation, sky wave signals from BPL emissions were detected thousands of miles away.
6. BPL emissions will cause a harmful effect to radio systems over HF and low VHF radio spectrum, and many European countries and Japan have decided not to implement BPL for that reason.
7. The FCC has promised to protect licensed users of the HF spectrum. We must hold you to that promise.

Under consideration of the above points, we oppose the implementation of BPL until actual testing of this technology has been performed, the results made public, and the potential for interference to HF radio reception has been satisfactorily addressed.

Sincerely,

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